

Research training and development at SEED 2016-17

Research training and development co-ordinator: Dr. Leandro Minuchin

leandro.minuchin@manchester.ac.uk

Office hours: Thursdays 10:00 to 13:00

Research training and development at SEED is envisioned as a support structure that accompanies the progression of PhD students throughout their 3-year program. This support structure exposes students to key issues surrounding the epistemology and politics of knowledge production, the crafting and deployment of methodological tactics and practical research skills. The aim is for students to become familiar with the tensions, procedures and limitations that surround the practice of research and to illustrate the role of research inside and outside academia.

The research training and development structure is made out of series of compulsory and optional modules. These modules showcase the synergies and connections that cut across all SEED's disciplines. Presented as interdisciplinary platforms, the modules will highlight current research conducted at the school, entangling theory and practice as a pedagogical strategy. The compulsory modules cover the different stages of a research project: from the framing and development of a research design, to the crafting of bespoke methodological tactics. In these modules, the students will be exposed to both qualitative and quantitative methods. An emphasis will be given to the epistemological and ethical concerns that surround the selection of each methodological alternative, examining issues of validation, consistency and the production of truth-claims. Three compulsory modules — Research design and practice, Quantitative Tactics and Qualitative Tactics — are complemented by a series of optional courses, seminars and workshops. The aim is for students and supervisors to seek in-depth and expert knowledge in specific methodological tactics which are essential to the development of their research project. Throughout both semesters, students from across the school will be able to join seminars, modules and talks offered by each discipline at SEED. In conjunction, students are encouraged to engage with the expansive offer of seminars delivered by both methods@manchester and artsmethods@manchester. Furthermore, the school has allocated a specific funding stream for PhD students to cover the cost of training courses or summer schools which could benefit students' research development. Both optional and compulsory modules are open to all PhD students. First year PhD students must attend the three compulsory modules (details below).

Research design and practice

These sessions intent to provide a common platform for all SEED PhD students to examine the basic components of a research design and how they relate and influence each other. The course aims to provide students with the tools necessary to revise and update their research proposal, considering how epistemological positions influence research strategies. The course also covers research practical skills. The student will learn about the ethics procedure at SEED, how to frame their fieldwork and data gathering process and how to prepare for the viva examination. The course also aims to support students' career development by examining academic and non-academic paths for graduate students and publication strategy.

Quantitative tactics

The aim of the module is to familiarise students with the use, application and possibilities of quantitative methodological instruments. The module will allow students to understand basic commands in R, develop and curate surveys, and construct and delimit samples for research. In addition, the

course will introduce the use and manipulation of different softwares and platforms: GIS, the handling of big data and using social networks for data mining.

Qualitative tactics

The aim of this module is to critically engage with the generation, recuperation and analysis of empirical data. Presented through applied case studies, the students will be exposed to a series of qualitative tactics ranging from ethnographic approaches to archival research and comparative methods. The course will also introduce students to NVivo as a platform for data analysis and code generation. The course is structured around the notions of discourse and practice. They will be used as vehicles for students to explore how they can trace, register, observe and compose different collectives and units of analysis.

Discipline options

Each of the school's discipline offers a course or seminar that examines discipline specific methodological perspectives. The modules are open to all PhD students (across years). These options run during the first and second semester.

Bespoke methods training: methods@manchester and optional modules

Methods@manchester offers a range of seminars that aim to provide support for specific methodological tactics. The students in conversation with their supervisory team are encouraged to select options that are appropriate for their research design. Students will be able to apply for funding to cover the cost of training. A copy of the application form can be found here: <http://www.seed.manchester.ac.uk/pgr-handbook/funding-and-finance/research-training-support/>. In addition, students can take a series of optional modules delivered by the School of Social Sciences. Details about these courses will be posted on blackboard.

<http://www.methods.manchester.ac.uk/>

<http://www.artsmethods.manchester.ac.uk/>

Assessment

There is no formal assessment associated with the research training and development units. Attendance to the Research design and practice, Qualitative tactics and Qualitative tactics modules is compulsory. The students are encouraged to submit an updated version of their proposal, a brief literature review and a more developed methodological strategy by the end of March. This paper should be discussed with supervisors and serve as working document towards the year-review.

1st semester	Research design and practice		14.00- 17.00	
September 29	HumBridge St_HANSON ROOM	Research design	Dr. L. Minuchin (Architecture)	The sessions introduce students to the basic components of research design. The interaction between components. The identification and formulation of research problems, aims, objectives and questions. The students are exposed to different paradigms of research and epistemological positions. They examine the mechanics and types of literature reviews.
October 6	Hum Bridge St_HANSON ROOM	Epistemology/ Ontology	Prof. Sam Hickey (GDI)	
October 13	Ellen Wilkinson A2.7	Mixed methods/	Prof. P. Woodhouse (GDI)	
October 20	Hum Bridge St_HANSON ROOM	Literature review	Dr. L. Minuchin (Architecture) and Dr. Pauline Prevett (Education)	
October 27	Ellen Wilkinson B4.3	Ethics	Dr. L. Minuchin	Research skills and practical procedures of the PhD program. The students engage with the ethical dimensions of research and are introduced to ethical procedures at the school. They are also exposed to practical problems and arrangements related to fieldwork preparation. Preparing for the viva. Defending your work, panel constitution and preparation
November 10	Simon_3.40	Fieldwork	Dr. L. Minuchin	
November 17	Ellen Wilkinson AG9	Viva preparation	Dr. Leandro Minuchin / Prof. Kevin Woods (Education)	
November 24	Hum Bridge St_HANSON ROOM	Career planning	Dr. Darcey Gillie	Research skills. PhD employability. Career paths. Working in academia. Developing a publication strategy. Publishing in academic journals.
December 1	Hum Bridge St_HANSON ROOM	Publication/ communicating science	Prof. Prof. Erik Swyngedouw (Geography)/ Dr. P.Hughes (Physical Geography)	
December 8	Roscoe_4.2	Social Responsibility / Impact	Dr. Leandro Minuchin / Dr. J. O'Brien /	The link between research and social impact. The University's strategy. The impacts on research designs.

	Qualitative tactics	second semester Thursdays: 15-18	
February 2	Discourse analysis	These three sessions focus on tracing as a methodological strategy. Structured around the notions of discourse and practice, the students are exposed to different conceptual vehicles to explore how language supports and communities of practice can be framed as units of analysis. Discourse analysis and the registration of: apparatuses, technologies of power, ideologies and histories of ideas. Practices and the tracing and observation of actions that illustrate how collectives learn, move, act politically and manipulate and produce space. The inclusion and analysis of multiple agencies and more than human entities.	Prof. Erica Burman (Education)
February 9	Archival and historical methods		Dr. Isabelle Doucet (Architecture)
February 16	Ethnography		Profesor Albena Yaneva (Architecture)
February 23	Visual methods	Means of data production. Photo elicitation, using maps to register and produce empirical data.	Dr. Martin Dodge (Geography)
March 2	Interviews/Focus groups		Dr. Pauline Prevett (Education)
March 9	Comparative methods	Research design framing. Selecting case studies, the logic of comparative methods. Epistemological considerations and social responsibility.	Prof. Kevin Ward (Geography)
March 16	Case study		Dr. Alfredo Stein (Planning)
March 23	Action Research		Prof. Diana Mitlin (GDI) and Dr. Leandro Minuchin
March 30	Qualitative analysis: NVIVO	The session addresses the instance of data analysis, coding and systematisation. It introduces students to NVivo software.	Dr. Pauline Prevett (Education)

	Quantitative tactics	Second semester. Fridays: 15-18	
January 27	Quantitative Epistemologies	Introduction to epistemological concerns surrounding the use of quantitative methods. Addressing issues of validity, consistency and truth-making claims.	Prof. Julian Williams
February 3, 10, 17	R (x3 or 1 day workshop)	Introduction to R. Understanding independent and dependent variables. Correlations. Handling data sets.	Dr. Graeme Hutcheson
February 24	GIS	Introduction to GIS. Mapping data distribution. Space-time variations.	Dr. S. Hickey and Dr. Nuno Pinto
March 3, 10	Sampling/ Surveys (x2)	Understanding validity issues surrounding sampling. Scale, size. Crafting questionnaires. Using Qualtrics: basic commands.	Prof. Cecilia Wong / Dr. Maria Pampaka
March 17	Big Data	How to access, manage, manipulate and use big data sources.	TBC
March 24	Data Mining	Using social media to explore different temporalities and scales of data gathering techniques.	TBC

1 and 2 semester

Discipline options

Materials, Methods and the City (Leandro Minuchin, Architecture)

Advanced Graduate Program in Geography (Erik Swyngedouw, Geography)

Education Social Theories of Learning (Education)

Best practice case studies in urban development planning in cities in the South (Alfredo Stein, Planning)

DEV@man seminars (GDI)

Geography Research and visualisation (Jason Dortch, Physical Geography)

Development research (GDI)

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